

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



March 15, 1991

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-24-91

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS  
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS

SUBJECT: OUT-OF-HOME CARE PLACEMENT RESOURCES

The purpose of this All County Information Notice (ACIN) is to provide information regarding existing out-of-home care placement resources. This is the first step in determining placement needs as mandated by SB 370 (Chapter 1294, Statutes of 1989). SB 370 requires in part that the State Department of Social Services (SDSS) annually conduct a county-by-county survey to determine the unmet placement needs of children placed pursuant to Section 300 and Sections 601 and 602 (Welfare and Institutions Code Section 11462(i)(4)). Ultimately, the goal is to have a comprehensive listing of licensed facilities by placement types and services which will aid the worker in identifying the best placement match and allow for advance planning to develop new placement resources to meet current and future needs.

To initiate this process SDSS has compiled the most current placement resource data which is available internally to begin identifying existing placement resources. This is the initial step in the on-going process of determining placement gaps and unmet needs.

Additionally, as part of the SB 370 mandate, SDSS, in consultation with county welfare and probation departments and other parties, is currently developing a uniform Level of Care Assessment (LCA) instrument and process which will provide a mechanism for placement workers to identify and match the child's needs with appropriate placement resources. When implemented statewide, it is anticipated that the LCA will be used to routinely collect data on the need for and availability of placement resources. This will eliminate the need to survey counties on an annual basis. Such data, however, will not be available for at least a year as the LCA form and process are being tested and will be refined before implementation.

Therefore, SDSS is also exploring with the County Welfare Directors Association and the Chief Probation Officers of California the feasibility of conducting a county-by-county survey prior to LCA implementation. This survey would be used to establish baseline data on the need for additional placement resources.

As you know, counties utilize a range of placements from least to most restrictive environments. A large percentage of children are placed with relatives. When placement with relatives is not possible and/or appropriate, children are placed in foster family homes, in foster family homes with specialized care rates, in small family homes, with foster family agencies for subsequent placement in certified family homes, or in group homes. The placement decision is based on specific criteria which requires placement in the least restrictive environment consistent with the child's needs. Information on the number of existing (nonrelative) placement resources is provided in this ACIN.

#### FOSTER FAMILY HOME/SPECIALIZED CARE FOSTER FAMILY HOME RESOURCES

In addition to the large number of relative homes in California, there are 15,640 State and county licensed foster family homes according to reports from SDSS Community Care Licensing Division and the Statistical Services Bureau. These homes are broken out by county in Attachment A.

Most counties have a specialized care rates system which provides additional payments to foster family home providers who care for children with special needs. A Specialized Care Ratesetting System (SCRSS) Questionnaire was sent to the fifty-eight county welfare departments and other agencies and organizations in California responsible for the placement of children with special needs. The purpose of the questionnaire was to gather specialized care data on systems information, statistics and population characteristics to be incorporated into the report to the Legislature on California's SCRSS. Based on data from the forty-four county welfare departments with specialized care systems, the following information was compiled regarding unmet placement needs.

- o Thirty counties report that they do not have adequate Specialized Care (SC) providers for medically fragile children and infants.
- o Twenty-nine counties report that they do not have adequate SC providers for drug exposed infants.
- o Ten counties report that they do not have adequate SC providers for severely emotionally disturbed youth.

### SMALL FAMILY HOME RESOURCES

According to reports generated by SDSS Community Care Licensing Division, there are seven hundred fifty-five licensed small family homes throughout the State. These resources are identified by county in Attachment A.

### FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY RESOURCES

According to reports from SDSS Community Care Licensing Division and the Statistical Services Bureau, there are one hundred sixty licensed foster family agencies (FFA). These FFAs have a combined total of 3,083 certified family homes in the State. A breakdown by county is provided in Attachment A.

### GROUP HOME RESOURCES

A group home (GH) provider has one or more programs; a program is a unique combination of services targeted to a specific population of children in one or more licensed group home facilities. There are six hundred seventy GH programs which are operating in 1,798 licensed GH facilities in the State. Many providers operate the same program at more than one site/facility and each site/facility is licensed separately by SDSS Community Care Licensing Division.

Information collected for Aid to Families with Dependent Children - Foster Care (AFDC-FC) ratesetting purposes was utilized to identify GH programs throughout the State. Specifically, twelve categories were defined and used to identify the programs' primary service or program function (Attachment B). The program statements of existing GH programs were reviewed and matched to the specified categories. Attachments C and D identify GH resources within each category by county and by Rate Classification Level (RCL).

In many cases, it was not possible to identify a single primary service category because program statements currently utilized for ratesetting purposes are not required to identify their program in this fashion. Program statements sometimes describe more than one area of expertise and/or do not describe one service/program function as primary. One hundred three programs are therefore listed as "Other".

The majority of GH programs in the State, three hundred, list reunification of the child with his/her biological family as their primary service/program function. One hundred twelve programs list their primary service/program function as emancipation of the minor.

There are 14 RCLs established for GH programs. Currently, GH programs are classified into one of twelve RCLs based on the overall level of care and service provided; they are not based on the actual type of program provided. Therefore, the same primary service/program classification will be found in a range of RCLs.

Twenty-nine programs listed under RCL 12 have enough points to classify as RCL 13 or 14. However, in order for a program to receive an RCL 13 or 14 rate, two additional criteria must be met: 1) the child must have special treatment needs determined through the LCA, and 2) the program must meet county performance standards. An interim LCA certification process and county performance standards are being developed.

As previously stated, identifying existing out-of-home care placement resources is the first step in the process of determining unmet placement needs. SDSS is working with county representatives to identify and collect additional data which will accurately assess existing resources in relation to placement needs.

If you have any questions about the information provided, please contact Hilda Tonarely, Family and Children's Services Policy Bureau, at (916) 327-7629 or ATSS 8-467-7629.



LOREN D. SUTER  
Deputy Director  
Adult and Family Services

Attachments

cc: County Welfare Directors Association  
Chief Probation Officers of California

## PLACEMENT RESOURCES BY COUNTY

	Licensed Foster Family Homes 1	Licensed Small Family Homes 2	Licensed Foster Family Agencies 3/ Certified Family Homes 4	Licensed Group Home Facilities 5	Group Home Programs 6	*Sources
1. Alameda	841	22	9/105	68	26	1 Statistical Service 9/90 report and Community Care Licensing 12/90 report. These numbers include both state and county licensed foster homes.
2. Alpine	1					
3. Amador	15	1				
4. Butte	150	9	3/70	16	4	2 Community Care Licensing 12/90 report
5. Calaveras	30	3	1/0	4	3	3 Community Care Licensing 12/90 report. The administrative office of a Foster Family Agency is sometimes located in a separate county than that of its Certified Family Homes.
6. Colusa	8					
7. Contra Costa	512	29	1/40	41	15	
8. Del Norte	44	1				
9. El Dorado	74	1	2/10	12	7	4 Statistical Services 6/90 report
10. Fresno	277	13	4/38	48	16	5 Community Care Licensing 12/90 report
11. Glenn	14	1		3	1	
12. Humboldt	91	4		4	1	6 Foster Care Rates Bureau 12/90 report. The county identified refers to the location of the Group Home Program administrative office. Many programs have additional sites in other counties; these resources are not reflected as this information is not available at this time.
13. Imperial	64	1		5		
14. Inyo	22		1/3			
15. Kern	503	9	1/21	6	1	
16. Kings	104	2		2		
17. Lake	27	1	0/2			
18. Lassen	13			8	2	
19. Los Angeles	3391	234	41/738	446	180	

## PLACEMENT RESOURCES BY COUNTY

	Licensed Foster Family Homes	Licensed Small Family Homes	Licensed Foster Family Agencies/ Certified Family Homes	Licensed Group Home Facilities	Group Home Programs	
20. Madera	53	4		4	2	
21. Marin	88	4	2/24	22	7	
22. Mariposa	23			1		
23. Mendocino	75	1	2/11	14	4	
24. Merced	175	4		8	3	
25. Modoc	5			1	1	
26. Mono	4			2		
27. Monterey	95	4	1/0	18	2	
28. Napa	107	17	1/8	18	9	
29. Nevada	36	4	1/17	5	2	
30. Orange	594	38	11/192	79	22	
31. Placer	60	11	2/137	8	4	
32. Plumas	4		2/140	4	2	
33. Riverside	884	51	6/114	81	22	
34. Sacramento	684	44	18/289	134	55	
35. San Benito	1	1		8	1	
36. San Bernardino	642	60	3/139	105	57	
37. San Diego	2066	31	9/246	115	36	
38. San Francisco	262	6	5/65	44	24	

## PLACEMENT RESOURCES BY COUNTY

	Licensed Foster Family Homes	Licensed Small Family Homes	Licensed Foster Family Agencies/Certified Family Homes	Licensed Group Home Facilities	Group Home Programs
39. San Joaquin	338	29	2/59	58	21
40. San Luis Obispo	78	8	2/38	10	7
41. San Mateo	292	2	2/229	18	9
42. Santa Barbara	193	12	1/61	34	13
43. Santa Clara	835	16	7/24	87	24
44. Santa Cruz	132	6	3/36	44	11
45. Shasta	131	7	4/50	64	23
46. Sierra	7				
47. Siskiyou	15			2	
48. Solano	180	6	2/8	9	3
49. Sonoma	223	13	4/9	36	11
50. Stanislaus	162	7	6/90	34	12
51. Sutter	54			2	
52. Tehama	70	1		11	4
53. Trinity	35			1	1
54. Tulare	390	17		14	9
55. Tuolumne	49	1		1	
56. Ventura	316	14		27	9
57. Yolo	66	2	1/70	10	3
58. Yuba	35	3		2	1
TOTALS	15,640	755	160/3083	1708	670

### Special Program Codes Definitions

SUBSTANCE ABUSE: Program provides treatment service for drug and/or alcohol abusers.

MINOR PARENT (Moms & Babies): Program focuses on teaching parenting skills to young mothers, overseeing medical follow-up, and supervision of minor parents and babies.

INFANT PROGRAMS: Program focuses on infant care, including care, medical monitoring and follow-up for infants that have been exposed to drugs and/or alcohol in utero.

MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT: Program provides mental health treatment to seriously emotionally disturbed (SED) children and 1) has a mental health patch, and 2) serves children that would go to a state psychiatric hospital (or who have been placed from such a hospital.)

VOCATIONAL TRAINING: Program provides vocational skills and knowledge in preparation for a specific job or trade.

MENTAL HEALTH DAY TREATMENT: Program provides educational and mental health treatment for SED children during the day.

SEXUAL OFFENDER: Program provides treatment service, including counseling and/or therapy, for sexual offenders.

WARDS ONLY: Program provides services to wards placed by the probation department.

EMERGENCY SHELTER CARE: Program provides short term care to children removed from home by child protective service agency for temporary, immediate shelter.

EMANCIPATION: Program focuses on teaching independent living skills to children age 16 and over as its main function.

REUNIFICATION: Program provides services which facilitate the transition of children from foster care to their biological home as its main function.

OTHER: Programs which have more than one area of expertise, and/or do not describe one treatment service function as primary.



## GROUP HOME PROGRAMS BY COUNTY\*

Attachment C

	Sub- stance Abuse	Minor Parent	Infant Pro- grams	Mental Health Treat- ment	Voca- tional Train- ing	Mental Health Day Treat- ment	Sexual Offen- der	Wards only	Emer- gency Shel- ter	Emancipa- tion	Reunifi- cation	Other	Total Group Home Pro- grams
1. Alameda	1	2	1	4		2		1	1	3	11		26
2. Alpine													
3. Amador													
4. Butte				2				1			1		4
5. Calaveras										1	1	1	3
6. Colusa													
7. Contra Costa	2		1	2				1		3	6		15
8. Del Norte													
9. El Dorado	1					1					3	2	7
10. Fresno	2							2		1	6	5	16
11. Glenn											1		1
12. Humboldt											1		1
13. Imperial													
14. Inyo													
15. Kern												1	1
16. Kings													
17. Lake													
18. Lassen										1	1		2
19. Los Angeles	2	3	8	9		1			6	21	124	6	180

\*The county identified refers to the location of the Group Home Program administrative office; some programs include additional sites in other counties which are not reflected.

## GROUP HOME PROGRAMS BY COUNTY

Attachment C-2

	Sub- stance Abuse	Minor Parent	Infant Pro- grams	Mental Health Treat- ment	Voca- tional Train- ing	Mental Health Day Treat- ment	Sexual Offen- der	Wards only	Emer- gency Shel- ter	Emen- cipa- tion	Reunifi- cation	Other	Total Group Home Pro- grams
20. Madera											1	1	2
21. Marin	1			2		3			1				7
22. Mariposa													
23. Mendocino										2	1	1	4
24. Merced											1	2	3
25. Modoc								1					1
26. Mono													
27. Monterey										2			2
28. Napa	1			1					1		6		9
29. Nevada				1	1								2
30. Orange	1			5					1	2	8	5	22
31. Placer										1	1	2	4
32. Plumas										1	1		2
33. Riverside	1						1				19	1	22
34. Sacramento					1		2	1	3	18	13	17	55
35. San Benito								1					1
36. San Bernardino	2			1				1		13	27	13	57
37. San Diego	1	1		1						7	26		36
38. San Francisco	1	1	2		1	1			2	1		15	24

GROUP HOME PROGRAM BY COUNTY

Attachment C-3

	Sub- stance Abuse	Minor Parent	Infant Pro- grams	Mental Health Treat- ment	Voca- tional Train- ing	Mental Health Day Treat- ment	Sexual Offen- der	Wards Only	Emer- gency Shel- ter	Emancipa- tion	Reunifi- cation	Other	Total Group Home Pro- grams
39. San Joaquin		1					1	1		3	8	7	21
40. San Luis Obispo				1				3		3			7
41. San Mateo	1										1	7	9
42. Santa Barbara		3	1							1	7	1	13
43. Santa Clara		1		4				4	2	8	3	2	24
44. Santa Cruz	1							4		5	1		11
45. Shasta	3			1		2		3		8	5	1	23
46. Sierra													
47. Siskiyou													
48. Solano										1	2		3
49. Sonoma	1					4			1	1	3	1	11
50. Stanislaus								1		2	2	7	12
51. Sutter													
52. Tehama										1	3		4
53. Trinity											1		1
54. Tulare	2	1		1					1		3	1	9
55. Tuolumne													
56. Ventura								1	1	2	1	4	9
57. Yolo				2					1				3
58. Yuba													1
TOTALS	24	13	13	36	4	14	4	26	21	112	300	103	670

TOTAL GROUP HOME PROGRAMS

GROUP HOME PROGRAMS BY RATE CLASSIFICATION LEVELS

Attachment D

RCL	Sub- stance Abuse	Minor Parent	Infant Pro- grams	Mental Health Treat- ment	Voca- tional Train- ing	Mental Health Day Treat- ment	Sexual Offen- der	Wards only	Emer- gency Shel- ter	Eman- cipa- tion	Reunifi- cation	Other	Total Group Home Programs
Pending Rate Approval		3	2							2	10	2	19
1										1		2	3
2										1	1	1	3
3	2	1						1	1	6	11	5	27
4	2	1				1		5	2	7	15	2	35
5	5	1			1			5		12	25	12	61
6	1	1						3	1	20	39	13	78
7	6	1	1		1	1	1	2	2	17	68	16	116
8	3	2			1	1	1	5	1	18	47	8	89
9	1	1	2		1	2		1	2	11	39	15	75
10	1	1	2			3	1	1	5	8	18	9	55
11	1	1	2		1		1	3	2	4	16	6	44
12*	2		4			6			5	5	11	12	65
* (Some programs have enough points to be classified as RCL 13 or 14; see ACIN for additional information.)													
TOTALS	24	13	13	36	4	14	4	26	21	112	300	103	670
												TOTAL GROUP HOME PROGRAMS	